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Committee meeting in New York City on May 7, 1917,
on the preliminary designs for the
Calvert Street bridge.

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On Thursday, May 3d, 1917, a personal telephone message was received from Lieut. Col. Chas. W. Kutz, Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, saying that preliminary designs had been prepared for a new structure to replace the present Calvert Street bridge across Rock Creek, and that it was urgent that he receive the advice of the Commission regarding them without delay. Upon being informed that the Commission expected to meet in Washington on May 18th, he stated that he was pressed for an immediate decision because of the fact that the appropriation for procuring these preliminary designs was a fiscal year appropriation and would lapse on June 30th if not utilized. At his request a committee meeting of the architect members and the sculptor member was therefore arranged for 2 o'clock Monday afternoon, May 7th, at Mr. Kendall's office in New York City.

At this meeting Mr. Hastings, Mr. Kendall, and Mr. Adams were present, (Mr. Platt being unavoidably detained by illness), and Mr. Cammerer, representing the Secretary. Lieut. Col. Kutz appeared on behalf of the District Commissioners, accompanied by Mr. George Oakley Totten, the architect selected by them for the designing of the bridge.

Mr. Totten presented six or seven preliminary sketches for such a structure, which the Committee examined as they were presented and explained by Mr. Totten.

Colonel Kutz stated that it was their plan to construct the bridge on the axis of Calvert Street from the east, (the present old structure being off axis) and that their intention is to condemn so much of the property between the western ends of the Calvert Street bridge and the present Connecticut Avenue Bridge as is not to be taken by the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Commission for their scheme, and then develop the western termini of both structures into a round point. By so doing, he said, they would save money, and could continue with the construction of the new bridge without interruption of traffic over the old structure. The committee thought this very interesting, and were pleased with the scheme. Col. Kutz added that the length of the proposed bridge would be about 700 feet, and in width, wider than the Connecticut Avenue bridge; and that it is planned to construct it of reinforced concrete faced with stone.

After eliminating the less desirable designs, the committee selected as most pleasing a five-arch design, consisting of three large arches and two smaller

arches (one at each end). In commenting upon this last design, the members made a number of suggestions regarding details which they thought would better the design, such as that superstructure treatment of the abutments be done away with, that the panelling of the piers shown in this design be changed by adopting a simpler treatment shown on another one of the sketches, and that in the development of more advanced designs, some study be given to question of camber on bridge and thinning of the arch above the crown.

Colonel Kutz then said that the design the committee had selected was the one most favored by the District Commissioners, and seemed very much gratified with the result of the conference.

The committee then adjourned.

A reproduction of the last mentioned design has been placed on file for reference in the office of the Commission in Washington.

Approved: *Charles Leonard*
Chairman.

William Hutz
Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

